



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

1. Animal producers need pollution plans and storm water permits

ANIMAL PRODUCERS NEED POLLUTION PLANS AND STORM WATER PERMITS

DES MOINES – While most livestock and poultry producers know that they need a storm water permit for construction activities, they are often missing a key component of the permit.

The missing element is the pollution prevention plan, which describes how the producer will control erosion on the construction site.

“I was at five new confinement sites a few days ago, and not one of them had a pollution prevention plan,” said Jeff Prier, an environmental specialist in the Spencer DNR field office. “Not only do they need the plan, they need to implement it and keep a copy on the construction site.”

Jim Sievers in the Washington DNR field office agreed. “What we see is basically a lack of the pollution prevention plan,” he said. “Inspections and maintenance are also required. Even if they have the plan, they aren’t doing the weekly inspections and inspecting the area within 24 hours after a one-half inch rainfall.”

The storm water permits are required for construction activities that disturb soil on one acre or more.

In Northeast Iowa, Tom McCarthy of the Manchester DNR field office indicated that many small animal feeding operations aren’t aware that a storm water plan is needed for the entire disturbed area. That includes expansions, so someone who builds several buildings over time as part of one project would still need a storm water permit if the total area disturbed is one acre or more, he added.

All the specialists agreed that pollution prevention plans are usually fairly simple to install for animal feeding operations. “Often, it’s a matter of placing some silt fences or straw bales to stop the silt run-off,” said McCarthy.

The main goal is to keep soil from running off the property until the disturbed area has been stabilized with permanent vegetation. The plan needs to describe the site, have a map of the erosion controls that will be used, indicate how they will be maintained, and include records of inspections. Records must be kept for three years.

Prier added that having the pollution prevention plan is important to control pollutants from the site, but it’s also required by state and federal law.

More information and sample plans are available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/water/stormwater/. Or call your local DNR field office for assistance.

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